

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 WARSAW 01409 261608 Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 261557 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3195

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 1409

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI' S VISIT TO US CANCELLED

REF: WARSAW 0863

1. CITING INTERNAL POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES ABOUT WHICH HE WOULD NOT ELABORATE, CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI' S SECRETARY TELLS US IN STRICT CONFIDENCE THAT THE CARDINAL' S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, ONCE TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR OCTOBER, HAS BEEN CANCELLED. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, IF CHURCH- STATE SITUATION HERE IMPROVES, THE CARDINAL MIGHT VISIT THE UNITED STATES IN THE SPRING OR SUMMER OF 1974.

2. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT MAY HAVE OCCURRED TO CAUSE THIS CHANGE IN PLANS. WE HAVE HEARD LATELY, HOWEVER, FROM OTHER CUURCH SOURCES THAT THE CHURCH (I. E. THE CARDINAL) HAS GROWN INCREASINGLY DISSATIFIED WITH THE REGIME' S FAILURE TO DELIVER ON PROMISES OF CONCRETE STEPS TOWARD NORMALIZATION. MOREOVER, TO THE CHURCH' S CHRONIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT LACK OF BUILDING PERMITS FOR NEW CHURCHES, THE DRAFTING OF SEMINARIANS, AND GOVERNMENT HARASSMENT, HAS RECENTLY BEEN ADDED THE CHARGE, RAISED IN THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE EPISCOPATE CONFERENCE IN JANUARY, THAT PROVINCE OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN INTERFERING WITH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. IT IS CONVEIVABLE, THEREFORE, THAT THE CARDINAL HAS FELT COMPELLED TO REVISE HIS ESTIMATE OF WHEN THE CLIMATE OF CHURCH- STATE RELATIONS IN POLAND

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WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY TRANQUIL TO ALLOW HIM TO ACCEPT
CARDINAL KROL' S INVITATION TO VISIT THE US.
BOSTER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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